

Exotic Newcastle Disease News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nevada Department of Agriculture Eases Restrictions on Pet Stores

Las Vegas—The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is easing restrictions placed on pet store owners because of an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease (END) in Clark County. NDA will announce the regulatory changes 10:30 a.m. today at a press conference. The location is 4765 West Vegas Dr.

“We have determined that there is a minimal risk of spreading exotic Newcastle disease from commercial pet stores,” said Dr. David Thain, Nevada Department of Agriculture’s state veterinarian. “Therefore, we have established compliance agreements with owners that will allow them to sell birds in the quarantine area under certain conditions.”

Pet stores will be prohibited from selling chickens, turkeys, geese, pigeons, and swans, among others.

“We’re optimistic that our prompt response to the outbreak will enable us to contain the disease to a 14-square-mile area of Clark County,” said Dr. Thain.

After confirming END in a backyard flock of poultry on January 16, officials with NDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mobilized units from several local, state, and federal agencies to combat the disease.

To date, officials have detected the disease on a total of seven different properties in the North Las Vegas area and depopulated 1,670 birds on 96 properties. Going door-to-door, surveillance teams are making direct contact with more than 900 residents daily to inform them

about this disease. Officials are also conducting a public meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, February 6, at Von Tobel Middle School, located on 2436 North Pecos Rd.

All of Clark and a portion of Nye County are quarantined because of END. The quarantine restricts people from moving birds within the quarantine area and prohibits the movement of birds outside of it without a special permit.

Although END poses no human health threat, the disease is fatal in poultry. The disease is primarily spread through direct contact with birds, but it cannot be passed through the consumption of infected meat or eggs.

Symptoms of END include coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, loss of appetite, depression, severe drop of egg production, and sudden death. To protect birds from END, minimize direct contact with other birds. Also, clean and sanitize all clothing, equipment, and vehicles that may have been exposed to the virus.

Officials have established a hotline for more information. In Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah, residents can call toll free on (866) 490-2991; outside those states, on (702) 515-5200. Information about the disease is available on the following websites: www.agri.state.nv.state.us, www.aphis.usda.gov, and www.cdfa.ca.gov.

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